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Pacifists gather in protest

U.S. troop deployment spawns 60s-style anti-war movement

Associated Press

Supporters of U.S. military action in the Middle East are hanging out flags and baking cookies, and pacifist groups are staging what one termed the opening shots of an anti-war movement.

"It's happening too fast for people to actually comprehend," said Doug Rand, a spokesman for the Resource Center for Nonviolence in Santa Cruz, Calif.

In Lake Worth, Fla., about 20 self-described "neo-hippies" protested the U.S. military action Sunday by walking across the Lake Worth bridge carrying signs saying "Love Life" and "Peace for our Children."

"I know it's an unpopular opinion, but it needs to be said," said the group's leader, Elizabeth Dick, an editor for the National Examiner. "Under no circumstances should the United States take military action. ... I think the U.S. is being used to do the world's dirty work."

A small group of Rhode Islanders took to the streets Monday in Providence.

Their banners said: "U.S. troops out of the Middle East. No war for the oil companies and Wall Street. Money for jobs, homes, schools at home, not war abroad."

"We're responding like in 1963 when advisers were sent to Vietnam," said Bill Bateman of the All Peoples Congress. "This is the opening shot of an anti-war movement."

Accompanied by chants and the beating of a Buddhist prayer drum, 16 protesters blocked the main gate of Westover Air Force Base, home of C-5A cargo planes, for about two hours Monday at Chicopee, Mass.

"Those C-5As can carry troops to Saudi Arabia, nuclear weapons and chemical weapons," said Richard Thompson of Colebrook, Conn. "We want the people flying those planes to think about the decision they're

making. It's a moral decision."

But in Davie, Fla., a suburb of Fort Lauderdale, Ron Morrison and his neighbors hung yellow ribbons on their houses, trees and cars in honor of the American soldiers, including his son, whose Army unit had left Fort Stuart in Georgia.

While convoys of Army equipment headed from Fort Campbell, Ky., to Jacksonville, Fla., during the past

"U.S. troops out of the Middle East. No war for the oil companies and Wall Street. Money for jobs, homes, schools at home, not war abroad."

Slogans of protesters in Rhode Island

week, hundreds of people lined Interstates 24 and 75 in Chattanooga, Tenn., waving flags and holding up signs of support.

Georgia residents turned out about 20 at a time at a highway overpass to cheer convoys from the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Ky. The soldiers were moving their equipment through the state on their way to Mayport, Fla., for shipment to the Mideast.

In southern California, Moreno Valley residents prepared more than 200 dozen cookies for Marines scheduled for deployment to the Middle East.

East Germany sets reunification date

EAST BERLIN (AP) — East Germany's unruly political factions briefly put aside their differences Tuesday and set an Oct. 14 date to unify the troubled nation with West Germany.

But hours later, the Social Democratic Party said it wanted the date set a month earlier and would challenge the agreement. Richard Schroeder, the Social Democratic leader who had agreed to the Oct. 14 date, resigned as chief of his faction in Parliament.

The Social Democrats were meeting to assess whether they could muster the votes to torpedo the Oct. 14 arrangement worked out by Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere's broad coalition government.

De Maiziere is seeking a definitive timetable for the merger of the German states and the dissolution of economically battered East Germany.

Under the agreement, the two German states will legally become a single nation Oct. 14. Germans on both sides are tentatively set to elect a common government in December.

After meeting with the leaders of other parties in Parliament, de Maiziere said lawmakers would convene Oct. 9 to formalize the unification date. This was before Schroeder announced his move.

Oct. 9 is the first anniversary of a large demonstration in Leipzig, East Germany, which fueled other democracy protests. The demonstrations spread across the country, eventually bringing down the Communist regime that had ruled four decades.

Alluding to the attempt by lawmakers to capture the spirit of grassroots solidarity that toppled the old regime, de Maiziere said Parliament will convene under the motto:

"Where we come from, where we want to go."

De Maiziere's conservative Christian Democrats, the nation's second-largest party, and the left-leaning Social Democrats, who abandoned de Maiziere's coalition two days ago, agreed on the October date. Also agreeing were the former Communists, the third-largest party in Parliament; and the small Buendnis 90 coalition that includes the intellectuals and activists who led last year's revolt.

The basic position of the Social Democrats was that unification should take place Sept. 15 because of East Germany's serious economic problems.

Christian Democrats in both German states wanted to keep the date of unification and elections for a united Parliament as close together as possible.

The Social Democrats said this was because Christian Democrats, including West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, were trying to win the election before West Germans realized the true cost of bailing out East Germany.

Dec. 2 has been scheduled for elections for a united Parliament.

Regine Hildebrandt, a Social Democrat who resigned as labor minister Tuesday in keeping with her party's decision to leave de Maiziere's government, said 25,000 East Germans are losing their jobs weekly.

Sirens screamed around the prime minister's office Tuesday as about 1,000 public employees, including firefighters and ambulance drivers, rallied outside to demand better wages. Bus drivers joined in the rally by parking their vehicles for an hour.

U.S. civilians prepare for war, demonstrate support for soldiers

WASHINGTON (AP) — In Alabama, a bookseller finds a run on atlases because "people want to know where it all is."

In Georgia, a business hands out little American flags to wave proudly from car antennas.

Main street America prepares for war.

Along Interstate 75 in northern Georgia, gray-green trucks rumble taking the 101st Airborne from Fort Campbell, Ky., to Florida ships bound for the Middle East.

The troops are cheered on their way by people on overpasses. Banners read: "Get Their Gas and Kick Their Ass."

Don Cagle of Dalton, Ga., supplied a flag, 30 feet by 50 feet.

"Gosh," he said, "we had to do something. We want them to know we care. And I'll tell you this: We can't wait to put it on the north-bound side to welcome them back."

The mood catches on.

Fourteen inmates at Cross City Correctional Institution in North Florida announce they want to fight in Saudi Arabia and redeem their honor — and in the process gain their freedom, like the heroes of "The Dirty Dozen."

"We are not just seeking release from prison," the inmates say in a letter.

Bob Macmaster, a spokesman for

the Florida Department of Corrections, says the inmates have been watching too many movies.

There were other signs of a country gearing for war in a far off place:

- Bell County, Texas, waives the 24-hour waiting period for marriages of Fort Hood soldiers and issues a record 160 licenses last week.

- Seven comedians of the Stand Up NY Comedy club in New York City performed on the theme of "Iraq-Nophobia."

- Julie Trahan of the Hair Force barber shop outside South Carolina's Shaw Air Force Base gate, figured her customers were headed for a warmer climate when they asked for haircuts "almost to the skin."

- Country music singer Hank Williams Jr. put his feelings about Iraq and its poison gas into a song that suggested: "Stick it in your safsafas."

Everywhere that soldiers leave for the oven-baked Middle East, there is a rush to buy sunblock cream. Paul E. Burke Sr., president of Native Tan Inc., offers to supply odorless sunblock at cost.

"I'd hate to see 5,000 of our guys advancing across the desert toward the enemy smelling like a coconut," he said. "I think they'd be detected."

Families left behind seek solace.

Eileen Bronko of Naugatuck, Conn., sister of a Saudi-based sol-

Airline announces cutbacks

ARLINGTON, Va. (AP) — USAir will begin firing nearly 1,500 of its probationary employees across the country effective immediately, airline President Seth E. Schofield said Tuesday.

The cost-cutting move cancels a planned expansion and growth program because of a weakening economy and a lull in the airline business, said USAir spokeswoman Susan Young.

Some employees would receive notices Wednesday, and those intended to be fired would be out of work no later than next week, Young said.

USAir is the third-largest domestic airline in terms of the number of passengers who travel each day on nearly 3,000 flights. It has 55,000 employees.

Young said specific cities or departments affected by the cuts were "across the board, in most departments and in most geographic regions of the country."

She said that could mean employees ranging from airport maintenance workers to secretaries hired for a planned growth who were on the usual six-month probationary period.

"We deeply regret that this action is necessary, but these employees were hired in anticipation of an expansion program that has been reduced in light of current economic projections," Schofield said.

Young said travel has been flat, the nation's economy weakening and the economic climate for the next 12 to 24 months does not look good.

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	City Information Channel	36	MTV - Music Television
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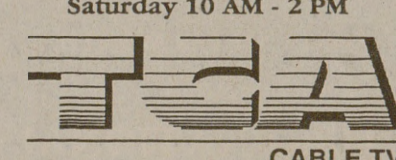
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